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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5390
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PL, US, XG
SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS ON PRESIDENT'S TRIP, NATO SUMMIT

1. DRAWING HEAVILY ON WESTERN NEWS SOURCES, POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY HAS SOUGHT TO DEPICT THE PRESIDENT'S EUROPEAN TRIP AND THE NATO SUMMIT AS LARGELY INSPIRED BY U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS AND A NEED TO BOLSTER ALLIED CONFIDENCE AFTER VIETNAM. THE NATO MEETING IS PORTRAYED AS HAVING FAILED UTTERLY TO RESOLVE MOUNTING ATLANTIC DIFFERENCES, WHICH RESULT IN PART FROM THE SPREADING INFLUENCE OF DETENTE AND WHICH THEMSELVES POINT UP THE WANING VALUE OF NATO AS A STRICTLY MILITARY ALLIANCE.

2. A ZYCIE WARSZAWY EDITORIALIST, WRITING IN THE JUNE 5 ISSUE, ASSERTS FOR EXAMPLE, THAT, ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT PRODUCED NO CONCRETE SUCCESSES, THE PRESIDENT COULD NEVERTHELESS PROCLAIM HIMSELF SATISFIED, SINCE THE TRIP HELPED TO BOOST HIS PERSONAL
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AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE "IN AMERICA" AND TO LAUNCH HIM ON THE

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ELECTION TRAIL. IT FURTHER DEMONSTRATED TO AMERICANS THAT THE PRESIDENT, NOT THE SECRETARY OF STATE, IS IN CHARGE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, IN THE EDITORIALIST'S VIEW.

3. AS FOR THE NATO SUMMIT, TRYBUNA LUDU COLUMNIST RYSZARD DRECKI WRITES IN THE JUNE 6 ISSUE THAT MANY WESTERN COMMENTATORS BELIEVE THE NATO GATHERING NOT ONLY FAILED TO REMOVE THE INTERNAL CONFLICTS PLAGUING THE ALLIANCE BUT EXACERBATED THEM BY BRINGING THEM INTO CLEARER FOCUS. DRECKI CONTENDS THAT THE ALLIANCE IS THUS EVEN MORE CONSCIOUS OF ITS INABILITY TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF NATO'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS DETENTE, DRECKI CONTENDS THAT THE ALLIANCE HAS OPTED FOR AN "ARMED PEACE," WHICH CLEARLY SETS IT APART FROM THE GROWING TREND TOWARD PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. HE POINTS TO AN ALLEGED CONTRADICTION IN THIS REGARD BETWEEN NATO'S POSTURE ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND THAT OF ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. WHEREAS NATO AS A WHOLE ASSUMES A HARDER, LESS CONSTRUCTIVE STANCE, ITS MEMBERS HAVE SHOWN BY NUMEROUS EXAMPLES THAT THEY ARE READY ON A BILATERAL BASIS TO ACHIEVE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. DRECKI ATTRIBUTES THIS DICHOTOMY TO THE WESTERN MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WHICH ALLEGEDLY CAN MORE EASILY INFLUENCE NATO AS A MILITARY STRUCTURE THAN IT CAN THE INDIVIDUAL POLICIES OF NATO'S NATIONAL COMPONENTS.
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